

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-19, 23, 26-30 and 31-33 are presently active in this case, Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 23-24, 26, 27, 32 and 31-33 amended, and Claim 20 canceled and Claims 34-36 added by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-17, 19-21 and 23-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1, 6-8, 14, 20, 24, 25 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1,046,727 to Nippon Sheet Glass Co. Ltd. (Nippon) in view of JP 7-109569 (JP '569); Claims 18, 21 and 22 were allowed; Claims 2-4, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 26-30, 32 and 33 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 5 and 23 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Versteeg for allowance of Claims 18, 21 and 22, and indication that Claims 5 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have now amended Claims 5 and 23 to correct the informalities noted in the Official Action in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Claims 5, 18, 21 and 23 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants further wish to thank Examiner Versteeg for indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 10, 15, 26, 27, 32 and 33. Applicants have now amended all pending claims of the present application to include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

Rejected Claim 20 has now been canceled.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330